

ARGUMENTS/REMARKS

Applicant submits this amendment in response to the Office Action mailed November 29, 2005. A petition for a one-month extension of the term for response to said Office Action, to and including March 29, 2006, is transmitted herewith.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-6 and 8-13 that are pending in the present application. Applicant has amended claim 1. No new matter has been added by this claim amendment. Applicant has cancelled claim 7.

In the Office Action, claims 1-6, 10 and 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,339,477 to Warner et al. (hereinafter "the Warner patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,137,926 to Pao (hereinafter "the Pao patent").

Claim 1 is directed to a nail care system. The nail care system has a manicure bowl having a front wall, a sidewall, and a floor cooperating with each other to define an interior space for retaining fluid therein and a hand tool adapted to being powered. The system also has a plurality of adapter heads for interfacing with the hand tool. The system also has a base housing having an aperture and defining a cavity therethrough for selectively receiving the manicure bowl therein and having a storage compartment for storing the powered hand tool and the plurality of motion adapter heads. A fan is disposed in an

interior space of the base housing for circulating air in the cavity and is located directly above the cavity.

The Warner patent is directed to a motorized nail kit for removing nail coatings. Warner has a drawer 20 for holding tools and a rotatable container 48 for holding a cartridge 74. Cartridge 74 holds different treatments for the nails such as polish remover.

The Pao patent is directed to a portable battery operated manicure device having a case for holding a handheld tool. The tool has a motor that powers a shaft in a rotary motion for several attachments.

However, neither Warner nor Pao disclose "a fan disposed in an interior space of said base housing for circulating air in said cavity, wherein said fan is located directly above said cavity," as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. The fan is used to disperse, preferably, heated air onto a user's nails placed within the base housing cavity. (Appl. at page 8, lns. 8-15.) The "vertical arrangement of the nail care attachments, storage compartment, heater, fan, and compartment 65 provides the space saving design of nail care system 10." (Appl. at page 9, lns. 18-21). As such, applicant respectfully submits that this rejection should be withdrawn.

The rejection as to claims 2-6, 10 and 12-13 should also be withdrawn, inasmuch as each of these claims depends, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Claims 7-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Warner et al. in view of Pao as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,787,903 to Blackshear (hereinafter "Blackshear"). The Examiner states that "Blackshear discloses a manicure system (10) comprising a fan (42) and a heater (46)" and that "[i]t would have been obvious to one having an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the fan and the heater as taught by Blackshear into the nail care system of Warner et al in view of Pao for th purpose of circulating air." (Office Action at Page 4).

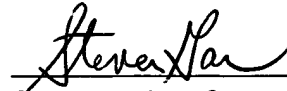
However, Blackshear does not disclose "a fan disposed in an interior space of said base housing for circulating air in said cavity, wherein said fan is located directly above said cavity," as now recited in claim 1 of the instant application. It is this particular location that allows for the compact housing of the present invention. The "vertical arrangement of the nail care attachments, storage compartment, heater, fan, and compartment 65 provides the space saving design of nail care system 10." (Appl. at page 9, lns. 18-21). Blackshear includes a fan portion 42 in an air processing section 40. (Col. 2, lns. 63-65). Fig. 3 shows this air processing section on the side of a much larger workstation. (See Fig. 3). This would not provide for the space saving, compact design of the present invention. As such, applicant respectfully submits that this rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the

rejections of the claims. Also, applicant respectfully requests that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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